

Iqra Basharat

RWP 58

My Job in an Apple Plant

Working in an apple plant was the worst job | ever had. First of all, the work was physically hard. For ten hours a night, | took cartons that rolled down a metal track and stacked them onto wooden skids in a tractor trailer. Each carton contained twenty-five pounds of bottled apple juice, and they came down the track almost nonstop. The second bad feature of the job was the pay. | was getting the minimum wage at that time, \$3.65 an hour, plus a quarter extra for working the night shift. | had to work over sixty hours a week to get decent take-home pay. Finally, | hated the working conditions. We were limited to two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid half hour for lunch. Most of my time was spent outside on the loading dock in near-zero-degree temperatures. | was very lonely on the job because | had no interests in common with the other truck loaders. | felt this isolation especially when the production line shut down for the night, and | spent two hours by myself cleaning the apple vats. The vats were an ugly place to be on a cold morning, and the job was a bitter one to have.

Activity 1

‘The paragraph on the apple plant, like almost any piece of effective writing, has two essential parts:

(1) a point is advanced, and (2) that point is then supported.

Taking a minute to outline the paragraph will help you understand these basic parts clearly. Add the words needed to complete the outline.

Note: Highlighted yellow are filled in blanks.

Point: Working in an apple plant is the worst job I ever had.

Reason 1: First of all, Work was physically hard.

- a. Loaded cartons onto skids for ten hours a night
- b. Each carton contained twenty-five pounds of bottled apple juice and they flowed down nonstop.

Reason 2: Second bad feature of the job was the pay.

- a. Was getting the minimum wage at that time, \$3.65 an hour
- b. Had to work sixty hours for decent take-home pay

Reason 3: Finally, I hated the working conditions.

- a. Two ten-minute breaks and an unpaid lunch
- b. Most time spent outside in near zero temperatures
- c. Loneliness on job

(1) No interests in common with other workers

Consequence: Felt very lonely on the job

(2) By myself for two hours cleaning the apple vats

Consequence: Felt isolation and realized job is bitter one to have.